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SUBJECT: FINLAND ON GI AND TRIPS

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¶1. Pol/Econoff delivered reftel points to Pekka Kosonen Counsellor for the Department for External Economic Relations at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Kosonen noted that there is no unanimous opinion in the E.U. regarding GI and TRIPS issues and that the divide is clearly cut between northern and southern countries. Finland feels the need to uphold its E.U. obligations thought it understands the position of the U.S. Kosonen also pointed out that spirits are not a large issue with Finland nationally as it is not a significant export.

¶2. Kosonen said that, "There could be positive movement on this issue," at the TRIPS council in Geneva on October 27. He emphasized that the GOF believes that the U.S. and E.U. could be more understanding of each other's position and not make this into a bargaining issue that could potentially hold up a successful outcome to the Doha negotiations.

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